

Minutes of the Public Works Committee - May 11, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Vice-Chair Swan.

Present: Chair Ken Herro, County Board Supervisors Joe Marchese, Karl Nilson, Fritz Ruf, and David Swan; **Absent:** Jeff Morris and Peter Wolff

Staff Present: County Board Chief of Staff Lee Esler, Legis. Associate Sandra Meisenheimer

Also Present: Building Operations Supervisors Scott Miller and Jim Elsbury, Representatives from the Court Security and Facilities Committee (Risk Management Administrator Laura Stauffer, Building Operations Mgr. Mark Keckeisen, Deputy Inspector Steve Marks, Captain Kevin McDonald, Judge Michael Bohren, and District Court Administrator Mike Neimon), Financial Analyst Lindsay Johnson, County Board Supervisor Duane Paulson

Public Present: Eric Love, President of the Waukesha County Bar Association

Chair Ken Herro arrived at 8:38 a.m. and took over the proceedings of the meeting.

Read Correspondence

1. Business cards were distributed from Tom Dieckelman, Vice President of Wisconsin Coach Lines, Inc. He was at the last committee meeting relative to the agenda item dealing with Waukesha County Transit Route 311.
2. Swan referred to a letter from Pat and Dennis Faherty of Hartland who are members of the Church of the Resurrection in Pewaukee and in support of SOPHIA (Stewards Of Prophetic Hope In Action).

Future Agenda Items

Esler referred to the following: (1) delay of the Courts Building; (2) status of Janesville Road extension; (3) mass transit standards; and (4) future ordinance to move the construction money into this calendar year to do the salt shed mitigation in North Prairie.

Herro asked is there a way to do roads so they are not expanded to four lanes? Herro said we can change the way we do business and save money in the process.

Approve Minutes of 4/27/06 Public Hearing; 4/27/06 Regular Meeting

Motion: Ruf moved, second by Swan, to approve the public hearing minutes of 4/27/06. **Motion carried 5 – 0.**

Motion: Swan moved, second by Ruf, to approve the regular meeting minutes of 4/27/06. **Motion carried 5 – 0.**

Report by Committee Member Attending Airport Commission Meeting of 5/10/06

Esler said Genia Bruce is the county board supervisor member on the commission. Last term Supervisor Singert regularly attended meetings and would apprise the committee of important activities. Esler reviewed some of the items that were taken up: (1) action on a request by Marine Executive Hangar to install a sewer/holding tank for their hangar, and (2) preliminary review of their Five Year Capital Project request, which includes replacement of the east/west runway in the out years. Esler said there is also an issue being investigated about Pro Health and the GE hospital perhaps interfering with the instrument landing system.

Discuss and Consider Bids for Floor Sealing at Main Highway Shop

Miller and Elsbury were present to discuss the bids. Esler said the committee has responsibility to approve Public Works bids over \$20,000 according to State Statutes.

Motion: Swan moved, second by Ruf, to approve the lowest bid from G & G Flooring in the amount of \$64,500 for installing a 3 coat Epoxy Finish. Marchese asked if there will be any disruption in operations. Elsbury said no. Nilson asked if this finish is the better stuff. Elsbury said yes – epoxy is a thicker coating. **Motion carried 5 – 0.**

Consider Proposed Ordinance: 161-O-008 Amend Waukesha County Code of Ordinances to Establish Courthouse and Administration Center Facility Screening

Esler stated this ordinance will authorize controlled access to the Courthouse and Administration Building. He stated there was a master plan developed in 2000 by Kimme & Associates to construct a new jail and court facilities. At the time the project was estimated at approximately \$60 million. Later the project was split into three parts – (1) construction of the jail (now complete) at a cost of about \$35 million; (2) a project was separated out and called Phase 2A (construction of a secured court facility adjacent to the new jail building), and (3) a 2B Phase for additional cell capacity to the east of the new jail which was not in the capital projects plan. Phase 2A was scheduled to begin with design work this calendar year. However, last year that project was delayed to calendar year 2007 although it was questionable as to whether or not a 2, 3 or 4 floor building would be built for criminal and intake courts. Earlier this year around February at a staff meeting Chief Judge Foster appeared at the meeting stating that they (judges) are in agreement collectively that the court building should be delayed past 2007. At that time Dennis Cerreta, Architectural Services Mgr., formulated a plan to look at potentially using the existing courthouse for additional court expansion. That plan was presented to the Executive Committee in March and subsequently an outside consultant will be hired to look at the feasibility of potentially utilizing space and doing some expansion in the County Board Room. Also, the area to the south is being examined which could be built onto bridging over to the existing 1959 jail. This leads into the ordinance before you today, which will restrict access to entry points to this complex (Courthouse and Administration Center).

Public Comment:

Eric Love, President of the Waukesha County Bar Assn. and speaking on behalf of the association, stated they support security in these buildings because they want people to be safe. Their concern is the only exception at entrances is for government employees working in the courthouse, and there would only be one access point for all other people to enter the courthouse, including the attorneys. They are concerned about getting to their court cases in a timely manner. He asked if there would be a provision in the ordinance to model it after Milwaukee County. In Milwaukee attorneys can purchase I.D. cards for a \$25 fee for entry into the Milwaukee County Courthouse and, therefore, are able to bypass the screening process.

Ruf asked how often are the Milwaukee County access cards reviewed and/or renewed? Love said he wasn't sure. The Milwaukee County Sheriff's Department issues the cards and no one has ever said the cards would be changed or revoked. Ruf said he has a problem with the I.D. cards not being reviewed periodically because circumstances change and so do people.

Representatives from the Court Security and Facilities Committee (Laura Stauffer, Michael Bohren, Mark Keckeisen, Steve Marks, Kevin McDonald and Mike Neimon), as well as Lindsay Johnson were present to discuss the ordinance. Stauffer stated the county actually started to make concerted efforts in county facilities back in 1993 to identify security exposure and make enhancements to the facilities to improve security. In 1995 the Court Security and Facilities Committee was established with Supreme Court guidelines. Since 1995 the committee in conjunction with Administration have been working on security enhancements. Their approach since 1993 has been an evolutionary process.

Bohren stated they are aware that some of the most recent incidents that occurred in Milwaukee, in Atlanta, and in Waukesha in 1978 are issues they deal with and comes down to whether bailiffs in the courthouse should be armed. Their consensus has been that they should be armed. He stated the perimeter screening issue is another concept that deals with another aspect of courthouse security. The security committee adopted a perimeter-screening proposal and master plan about 2-3 years ago that has been distributed throughout the county. They know people carry weapons whether they are knives or guns. Bohren stated rather than react to what can happen, they feel it is best to secure the courthouse, search for weapons and insure that the staff is safe, the judges are safe and the people coming into the courthouse are safe.

Bohren explained the location of the two entrances: (1) where the public would enter and be screened (courthouse), and (2) where employees would enter and bypass the system with I.D. cards (courthouse and administration center). Bohren said they feel this is a proactive step to protect everyone at a minimal cost. He went on to explain how everything would work upon entering. There will be a queuing up system located in the lobby of the courthouse. Bohren said they believe it is an efficient, secure and safe system to funnel traffic through one entrance. Bohren said regarding Attorney Love's comments, they've looked at this issue with the County Executive, and the Executive will remain open to make modifications to the security program and who has access based on what really happens here. Keckeisen explained hours of operation, procedures for after-hour meetings in both buildings, and breach of security if someone exits a secured door. Bohren said security perimeter screening will not eliminate the need for bailiffs in the courtrooms because there will also be situations in the different courts where they are needed.

Nilson said this is an inexpensive way to get where we are going. Also, we can be flexible so we can adjust this to work for us. We should do this; it is a good idea. Bohren said regarding costs, the number of staff needed will drive the costs as well as the equipment. However, most of the equipment has been free through the anti-terrorism fund. The costs should stay relatively stable as long as the staff stays stable. However, if you open more doors, it will cost more.

Motion: Ruf moved, second by Nilson, to approve Ordinance 161-O-008. Stauffer said in the brochure it talks about the cafeteria workers who will be given card access because they arrive at 5:00 a.m. Background checks will be done and the cards will only be activated for one year at a time. The cards can be activated and deactivated at any given time. Also, for county employees there are rules to follow, such as not giving someone else their I.D. card to use.

Ruf asked what if there is an emergency such as a fire and we only have two exits? Keckeisen said in the event of a fire, every door in the building by law can be used as an exit. There will be a process set up by Facilities to get people back in the building after the emergency. Swan asked

where are the funds that were going to be used to remodel the front entrance of courthouse? Keckeisen said there is a capital project, and they anticipate they will be going through some growing pains with the project. They do not want to design a new entrance until they have an opportunity to operate it. It will probably be another year before they get the hard numbers, and then there will be a recommendation. **Motion carried 5 – 0.**

Overview of the Programs and Activities of the Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission (WRRTC) by Member Karl Nilson

Nilson distributed three handouts which he briefly explained: (1) 2004 Economic Summary of the publicly owned railroad system that Waukesha County has been a partner in for nearly 20 years, (2) WRRTC Balance and Income sheets, and (3) an article on “Boxcar Blues – Communities across the country are trying hard to save the remnants of the freight railroads.” He stated a major part of the railroad goes right through Waukesha. It is an economic development tool and only costs Waukesha County \$25,000 per year. Esler said there is \$30,000 in the 2006 non-departmental budget for the county’s portion.

Nilson said he was just re-elected as the Vice-Chair of WRRTC again. He has served on the commission for 10 years. He suggested re-agendizing this item at a future meeting and bringing in representatives from the railroad to give a power point on new things they are doing.

Discuss Committee Duties and Responsibilities as Contained in the Code of Ordinances

Esler referred to the handouts, which were previously distributed at the last meeting. He reviewed the responsibilities of the Public Works Committee, as well as the operating procedures and rules for some of the other committees.

Motion to adjourn: Swan moved, second by Ruf, to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 a.m. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe C. Marchese
Secretary

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